Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated ~~personal communication and data entry~~ device comprising:

a portable housing;

an internal controller coupled to the housing;

~~a paging device coupled to the controller;~~

an infrared transmitter coupled to the controller, the infrared transmitter configured by the controller to transmit an identifying signal on a periodic basis, the identifying signal uniquely identifying the integrated device; and

a voice recording device coupled to the controller.

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2. (Currently Amended) The integrated device of claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein the paging device provides the controller.

3. (Original) The integrated device of claim 1, wherein the voice recording device provides the controller.

4. (Original) The integrated device of claim 1, further comprising a cellular telephone transceiver coupled to the controller.

5. (Original) The integrated device of claim 1, further comprising a radio transceiver for two-way communication coupled to the controller.

6. (Currently Amended) The integrated device of claim 1, further comprising ~~an infrared transmitter~~ a paging device coupled to the controller.

7. (Original) The integrated device of claim 1, wherein the voice recording device is configured to digitize voice data and to transform the digitized voice data into computer readable text data.

8. (Original) The integrated device of claim 1, further comprising a clock coupled to the controller and wherein the voice recording device is configured to record a time and date

from the clock corresponding to recorded voice data

9. (Original) The integrated device of claim 1, further comprising an input device to enter a user identification code and wherein the voice recording device is configured to record voice data only after entry of a predefined user identification code.

10. (Original) The integrated device of claim 1, wherein the voice recording device is configured to record voice data only if the voice data corresponds to predefined voice print information.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The integrated device of claim 1~~ An integrated personal communication and data entry device comprising:

a portable housing;

an internal controller coupled to the housing;

a paging device coupled to the controller; and

a voice recording device coupled to the controller, wherein the voice recording device is coupled to a transceiver configured to transmit voice information over a wireless communication link to a hospital data system.

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12. (Currently Amended) ~~The integrated device of claim 1~~ An integrated personal communication and data entry device comprising:

a portable housing;

an internal controller coupled to the housing;

a paging device coupled to the controller; and

a voice recording device coupled to the controller, wherein the voice recording device is configured to transmit patient identification information to the hospital data system to enable storage of voice information from the voice recording device related to a patient on the hospital data system.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The integrated device of claim 1, further comprising~~ An integrated personal communication and data entry device comprising:

a portable housing;

an internal controller coupled to the housing;

a paging device coupled to the controller;

a voice recording device coupled to the controller;

an input device coupled to the housing,

an output device coupled to the housing,

a transceiver coupled to the housing to send and receive information over a wireless communication link to a hospital data system, and wherein the integrated device is configured to accept patient identification information from the input device, to send the patient identification information to the hospital data system, to receive patient data from the hospital data system based on the patient identification information, and to display the patient data on the output device.

14. (Original) The integrated device of claim 13, wherein the voice recording device provides the input device.

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15. (Original) The integrated device of claim 13, wherein the output device comprises a backlit liquid crystal display.

16. (Original) The integrated device of claim 13, wherein the integrated device is configured to provide at least one prompt on the output device for entry of patient status information based on patient data received from the hospital system.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The integrated device of claim 1, further comprising~~ An integrated personal communication and data entry device comprising:

a portable housing;

an internal controller coupled to the housing;

a paging device coupled to the controller;

a voice recording device coupled to the controller; and

an output device coupled to the housing and wherein the integrated device is configured to provide at least one prompt on the output device to record at least one predetermined category of patient status information.

18. (Original) The integrated device of claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to be coupled to a caregiver's wrist.

19. (Currently Amended) The integrated device of claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein the pager is configured to couple to a caregiver's wrist.

20. (Currently Amended) The integrated device of claim 1, wherein the ~~pager~~ housing is configured to couple to a belt around a caregiver's waist.

21. (Currently Amended) The integrated device of claim 1, wherein the ~~pager~~ housing is configured to couple to a strap around a caregiver's neck.

22. (Original) The integrated device of claim 1, further comprising a flexible sterile sheath configured to surround the housing.

23. (Currently Amended) An integrated ~~personal communication and data entry~~ device comprising:

a portable housing;

an internal controller coupled to the housing;

~~a paging device coupled to the controller;~~

an infrared transmitter coupled to the controller, the infrared transmitter configured by the controller to transmit an identifying signal on a periodic basis, the identifying signal uniquely identifying the integrated device; and

a cellular telephone transceiver coupled to the controller.

24. (Original) The integrated device of claim 23, further comprising a radio transceiver for two-way communication coupled to the controller.

25. (Currently Amended) The integrated device of claim 23, further comprising ~~an infrared transmitter~~ a paging device coupled to the controller.

26. (Original) The integrated device of claim 23, further comprising a voice recording device coupled to the controller.

27. (Currently Amended) An integrated ~~personal communication and data entry~~ device

comprising:

a portable housing;

an internal controller coupled to the housing;

~~a paging device coupled to the controller;~~

an infrared transmitter coupled to the controller, the infrared transmitter configured by the controller to transmit an identifying signal on a periodic basis, the identifying signal uniquely identifying the integrated device; and

a radio transceiver for two-way communication coupled to the controller.

28. (Original) The integrated device of claim 27, further comprising a cellular telephone transceiver coupled to the controller.

29. (Currently Amended) The integrated device of claim 27, further comprising ~~an infrared transmitter~~ a paging device coupled to the controller.

30. (Original) The integrated device of claim 27, further comprising a voice recording device coupled to the controller.

31. (Currently Amended) An integrated ~~personal communication and data entry~~ device comprising:

a portable housing;

an internal controller coupled to the housing;

a paging device coupled to the controller; and

an infrared transmitter coupled to the controller, the infrared transmitter configured by the controller to transmit an identifying signal on a periodic basis, the identifying signal uniquely identifying the integrated device.

32. (Original) The integrated device of claim 31, further comprising a cellular telephone transceiver coupled to the controller.

33. (Original) The integrated device of claim 31, further comprising a radio transceiver for two-way communication coupled to the controller.

34. (Original) The integrated device of claim 31, further comprising a voice recording device coupled to the controller.

35. (Original) A voice operated controller for medical equipment comprising:

a voice recorder configured to digitize and to interpret voice commands; and

a transmitter configured to send commands recognized by the voice recorder to a medical equipment controller.

36. (Original) The controller of claim 35, wherein the transmitter is configured to send commands over a wireless communication link.

37. (Original) The controller of claim 35, further comprising a housing coupled to the voice recorder and to the transmitter, the housing being configured to be coupled to a caregiver's head to position an input device for the voice recorder near the caregiver's mouth.

38. (New) The integrated device of claim 1, wherein the identifying signal includes an identification code.

39. (New) The integrated device of claim 23, wherein the identifying signal includes an identification code.

40. (New) The integrated device of claim 27, wherein the identifying signal includes an identification code.

41. (New) The integrated device of claim 31, wherein the identifying signal includes an identification code.

42. (New) A communication and location tracking system for a facility, comprising:

a processor operably coupled to a database;

a plurality of receivers, each receiver positioned at a respective location within the facility and operably coupled to the processor; and

a plurality of portable devices, each of the portable devices including a controller, a transmitter coupled to the controller, and a voice input device coupled to the

controller, the transmitter configured by the controller to transmit an identifying signal on a periodic basis, the identifying signal uniquely identifying the portable device;

wherein the receivers are configured to receive the identifying signals and the database includes location information for each portable device, the location information based on which receiver of the plurality of receivers receives the identifying signal from the portable device.

43. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the voice input device is voice-activated.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the voice input device responds only to an appropriate voice print.

45. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein each of the portable devices further includes a data communication module for communication with a remote system.

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46. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the data communication module is configured to provide patient information to a remote system.

47. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the data communication module is configured to receive patient information from a remote system.

48. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the portable device is configured to provide a prompt for patient information.

49. (New) The system of claim 48, wherein the portable device prompts for patient information to ensure compliance with a required procedure.

50. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the portable device further includes a data communication module and is configured to communicate with a remote system and at least one of the portable device and the remote system is configured to recognize a voice command provided to the voice input device.

51. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the voice command controls a remote device.

52. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the integrated device further includes a data communication module and is configured to communicate with a remote system and at least one of the portable device and the remote system is configured to recognize a voice command provided to the voice recording device.

53. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the voice command controls a remote device.

54. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the integrated device is configured to provide hands-free two way communication.

55. (New) A method for paging a staff member, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of portable devices whose locations are tracked with a tracking system, each portable device being associated with a staff member;

identifying a needed location requiring attention of a staff member;

identifying the location of at least a portion of the portable devices;

selecting a staff member based on the proximity of the identified location of the portable device associated with the staff member relative to the needed location; and

sending a communication to the portable device associated with the selected staff member.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the step of selecting a staff member is further based on an availability status of the staff member.

57. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the communication is a page signal sent to a paging device of the portable device associated with the selected staff member.